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Items of Interest:

Protect Yourself from Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning. Every year, more than 500 people die from accidental CO poisoning. CO is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if you breathe it. When power outages occur, you may try to use alternative sources of fuel or electricity for heating, cooling, or cooking. CO from these sources can build up in your home, garage, or camper and poison the people and animals inside. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. CO is found in stoves, generators, lanterns, and gas ranges. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms. If you think you may have CO poisoning, consult a health care professional right away. For more information on preventing CO poisoning, visit www.cdc.gov.

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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DoD Announces Implementation of Traumatic Injury Protection

**Special release from the U.S.
Department of Defense**

WASHINGTON - The Department of Defense (DoD) announced Nov. 30 the implementation of traumatic injury protection insurance under the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program as enacted by section 1032 of Public Law 109-13.

The program, which will be known as TSGLI, is designed to provide financial assistance to service members during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

On Dec. 1, all members eligible for SGLI will become insured for traumatic injury protection of up to \$100,000 unless they decline SGLI coverage. A flat premium of \$1.00 will be added to the monthly SGLI deduction, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage the member has elected effective Dec. 1.

TSGLI is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or disability benefits provided by DoD. It is

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EL CENTRO, Calif. - Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class K.J. Griffin, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two One (HSC-21), delivers first aid care to a training mannequin during air ambulance training in the desert near Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., Nov. 20. HSC-21 flies the MH-60S Seahawk helicopter and is preparing for an upcoming scheduled deployment to Iraq. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Michael Larson

III MEF Service Members Ease Pakistan Suffering

By Lance Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

SHINKIARI, Pakistan - Nearly 200 Okinawa-based Marines and Sailors set up camp Nov. 15 in the northern city of Shinkari, Pakistan, to provide medical treatment and humanitarian aid to those affected by the massive Oct. 8 earthquake.

The service members with Combined Medical Relief Team-3 have treated more than 2,000 patients and are seeing about 200 patients a day, according to Capt. Danny Chung, public affairs officer for CMRT-3.

"We're treating patients from sun up to sun down," Chung said. "The medical and support staff are well trained and experienced, as many took part in the humanitarian aid provided to Indonesia and Sri Lanka after the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami."

The field hospital has a triage area staffed by family practitioners and medical officers, according to Cmdr. Tom Davis, chief of professional services and a trauma surgeon. Other capabilities include

emergency care, acute care, intensive care, a laboratory, a pharmacy, x-ray capabilities, dental care, a pre-operation and post-operation unit and a 60-bed ward.

"We've been treating many injuries including chronic wounds, fractures and skin tumors," said Cmdr. Joseph Taddeo, a general surgeon with 3rd Medical Battalion, III MEF. "Spirits are high and people are psyched to be here helping."

All of the service members have been working hard to save lives and provide assistance, according to Davis.

"Personally, it's very challenging to be away from the luxuries we take advantage of daily and seeing the hardship that people (in Pakistan) endure," said Pfc. Christian J. Elomina, a data clerk with 3rd Medical Battalion. "It's important to be here doing what we need to do ... we are people also and we want to help."

Hospital Corpsman Timothy P. Granger, with 3rd Medical Battalion, said the morale of the corpsmen is extremely high because of the nature of this deployment.



SHINKIARI, Pakistan - Cmdr. Joseph Taddeo de-bridges the arm of a three-year-old Pakistani boy Nov. 20 in Shinkari, Pakistan. The boy suffered second-degree burns on most of his left arm and was brought to the field hospital for treatment. His sister (right) held him during the entire process. Taddeo is a general surgeon with U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan, currently assigned to Combined Medical Relief Team-3 in Pakistan. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti

"It's not very often that you get a chance to travel to a far off country and truly help the people," Granger said. "I truly love what I do."

Rota Leads HM Merger with Basic Skills sets "Plus"

By Naval Hospital Rota Public Affairs

ROTA, Spain - Naval Hospital (NH) Rota leads the way in the Navy-wide merger of Dental Technicians into the Hospital Corpsman rating, through the Hospital Corpsman Skills Basic Program (HMSB).

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Glenn Davis, HMSB program coordinator said, "Being called Doc is an honor. The essence of being a corpsman lies in our ability to save lives and keep Marines and Sailors on the front lines. Preparing our newest corpsmen for worldwide assignment is vital to the execution of our common mission. We are at the forefront of the merger and the completion of training, leading to further preparation of our health care providers in support of operations around the world."

Per the guidance of BUMEDINST 1510.23A, all Hospital Corpsman "A" school graduates, including all newly integrated Dental Technicians, are required to complete what is known as Difference Training no later than July 2006. USNH Rota has chartered a Difference Training Team to lead the way with a goal of hospital-wide training completion in early 2006.

NH Rota created an aggressive Basic Skills Set "Plus"

ROTA, Spain - Members of the newly integrated Hospital Corpsman rating participate in the Hospital Corpsman Skills Basic Program at Naval Hospital Rota. U.S. Navy photo by Naval Hospital Rota Public Affairs



Training Program including a four-day practical skills and curriculum program that introduces Basic Hospital Corpsman skills to newly integrated Dental Technicians. These skills are likely to be required in a patient care scenario in a fixed facility or an operational environment. The training is designed to help bridge the difference between Hospital Corpsman and Dental Technician training curricula. Training topics include medication administration, intravenous catheter insertion and therapy, venipuncture, hemorrhage control and homeostasis, and patient assessment. The "Plus" skills are medical asepsis and catheterization.

Desert Dental: Corpsmen Help Fight Tooth Decay in the Field



CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq – Capt. Loren J. Steenson, Dental Detachment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) works on a patient Nov. 30. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Wayne Edmiston*

By Lance Cpl. Wayne Edmiston, 2nd Marine Logistics Group

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq -

There are a small group of warriors here whose weapons aren't your typical M-16 A2 service rifle, but tools that protect welfare just as well. Their enemy is a small one, called plaque, and they are here to stop it.

They are the members of Dental Detachment Camp Taqaddum, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and they are here fighting tooth decay and cavities, as well as providing care for other dental emergencies in Iraq.

The detachment has stepped onto the front lines to support fellow service members and Iraqi forces who play a central role in Iraq's liberation and march toward democracy, said Capt. Andrew D. Peters, Dental Detachment commander.

"We try to be the best-trained, best-prepared," Peters said. "We

maintain the operational dental readiness of the forces here in Iraq."

The goal of the dental detachment here is 100 percent dental readiness, which means all dental needs of forces are taken care of.

Preparing units in the rear and pre-deployment training is essential to making the mission easier for the dental detachment here.

"When we are back at Camp Lejeune, we take care of all dental emergencies and ensure forces are taken care of before they come over to Iraq," he said. "Also we train continuously to deploy in support of operations."

Serving in Iraq offers an opportunity for the dentists and dental technicians to truly do their job.

"This is what they train for," Peters said of the detachments personnel, "to perform dentistry in a deployed environment. We have a

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DoD Announces continued...

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an insurance product similar to commercial dismemberment policies.

TSGLI provides money for a loss due to a specific traumatic event while disability compensation is intended to provide ongoing financial support to make up for the loss in

income-earning potential due to service-connected injuries.

The retroactive provision of PL 109-13 provides that any service member who suffered a qualifying loss between Oct. 7, 2001, and Dec. 1, 2005, will receive a benefit under the TSGLI program if the loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Free-

dom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

DoD developed this program in close coordination with the Department of Veteran's Affairs. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will closely monitor implementation with the services and make necessary adjustments if required.



MAYPORT, Fla. - Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Rita Sanchez prepares a patient for a routine dental x-ray at the Naval Station Mayport Branch Medical Clinic Nov. 22. *U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Elizabeth Williams*

Saving Sgt. Krueger's Hand

By Ellen Maurer, National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA - Marine Corps Sgt. Josh Krueger doesn't recall every detail of Feb. 27, 2005, the day he was injured in Iraq. What he'll tell someone who asks about the event is that it was a circumstance of "wrong place, wrong time."

He is now a man who is visibly scarred along both arms and blinded in his left eye. Yet, he sees clearly that what happened back then is not the key inspiring factor in his tale.

The point of his story is what happened after his injury and the care that made him whole again.

"I remember just saying to the docs, 'put me back together, so I can get back out there,'" Krueger recalled.

The patient's request was no easy task. Krueger's injuries were quite extensive. Not only had his encounter with an improvised explosive device severely injured his left eye, but also it had blasted

away a major portion of his lower left hand. As Krueger described his hand, "it looked like hamburger...it was gone."

After receiving immediate life-saving care in Iraq and stabilizing treatment in Germany, Krueger transferred to the National Naval Medical Center. Here, he came under the care of several physicians, including reconstructive surgeon Lt. Cmdr. Anand Kumar.

"Cases like Josh's are difficult to forget," said Kumar, division head for Plastic Surgery. "He needed a lot of work, if we had any chance of saving his hand."

Kumar and a multi-disciplinary team of specialists presented Krueger with a realistic picture of his options. Together, they decided to proceed with surgeries to save his limb rather than amputate it.

"Limb salvage requires multiple surgeons and multiple surgeries," Kumar said. "It's a team effort."

In order to save his limb, Kumar and the group performed several surgeries; some procedures

were up to 14 hours long. The team harvested tendons from Krueger's right arm and move them to his left hand to give him function in his fingers. They also took a flap of skin off a Krueger's leg and used it to cover the surgical site on his left hand.

During one of Krueger's most recent operations, Kumar went back in to the left hand and rearranged a tendon, giving him the ability to use his thumb again.

"It's like a new toy," Krueger said.

More than nine months have passed since his first surgery at Bethesda and Krueger is grateful to the doctors who were able to save his limb, especially since he found out his wife is pregnant with twins — double blessings sure to keep both his hands full, he said.

"I'm not sure, with anyone else taking care of me, I'd still have both my hands," Krueger said. "I owe my hand to Dr. Kumar...he did not give up on me."

Developing the 21ST Century Hospital Corpsman

By Lt. j.g. Janette Arencibia, Dept. Head Facilities, Naval School of Health Sciences, San Diego

SAN DIEGO - Naval Medical Education and Training Command (NMETC) published a list of certifying bodies for certifications and qualifications within the Hospital Corps web page on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO).

Just as every aspect of readiness is important for success in defending our nation, so is the need for Navy medical professionals' ability to respond to a variety of situations worldwide.

According to Rear Adm. Carol Turner, Commander of NMETC, attaining professional certifications and qualifications is a key element to success. "The CNO's top priority is Sea Warrior — a career management system that provides for the professional growth and development of our people," she said. "Achieving certifications and qualifications further elevates the level of professional excellence within Navy Medicine and directly supports Sea Warrior."

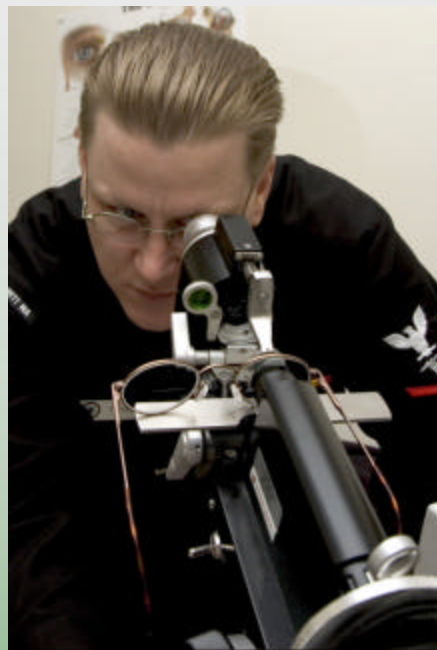
Medical certifications and qualifications support the Sea Warrior initiative and sustain combat readiness by providing universal baseline competencies, shared within the joint service arena and among our civilian counterparts. Collaboration with joint service initiatives and civilian medical professionals, including Non-

Governmental Organizations (NGOs), is greatly enhanced when the common denominator is based upon peer-defined standards endorsed by a professional certifying body.

Sailors who maintain their professional certifications demonstrate a strong desire for continued learning, research, and practice within their specific field. Membership often allows the opportunity to network with other healthcare professionals and provides an opportunity for Sailors to mentor others, helping to prepare 21st Century leaders and fleet readiness for the future. It also supports the Surgeon General's priority of Shaping Tomorrow's Force, by providing the right mix of health professionals.

Active involvement in professional associations will allow Hospital Corpsmen to develop leadership skills through research and speaking engagements at professional conferences. Professional associations often sponsor periodic publications which allow members an opportunity to publish research or other information related to their professional field.

For more information, log onto NKO at <https://www.nko.navy.mil>, click onto the "Force Health Protection" page under "Learning Centers", then navigate your way on the "Hospital Corps" web page and scroll down to "Certifications and Qualifications".



EVERETT, Wash. - Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class David Taylor, assigned to the David R. Ray Health Center's Optometry department, uses a lens meter to check the prescription on a pair of eyeglasses. The Health center serves over 3,000 service members and their dependents. The Health Clinic also provides services to the ships home ported in Everett and Sailor dependents. *U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Shaun McWhinney*

Naval Hospital Beaufort Sailor Receives Bronze Star Medal

By Patricia Binns, Naval Hospital Beaufort, South Carolina

NAVAL HOSPITAL BEAUFORT

- General Richard Tryon, Commanding General Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Eastern Recruiting Region, presented the Bronze Star Medal to Chief Hospital Corpsman Peter J. Curtiss, Leading Chief Petty Officer, Radiology Department, Naval Hospital Beaufort (NHB), Beaufort, SC, Nov. 21. Curtiss received his award for exceptionally meritorious service while serving as the base Chief Medical Corpsman while deployed with the multi-national Security Transition Command-Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III from Mar. 21, through Sept. 6, 2005.

Curtiss was notified of his impending deployment in January 2005 and left for Fort Benning on Feb. 28, 2005. Following two weeks of in-service training, uniform issue, and paperwork, Curtiss departed for Kuwait. After a few days of "in-country" classes, Curtiss arrived at his final destination, Coalition Military Assistance Training

Team (CMATT), Kasik Military Base, augmenting the 2nd and 3rd Infantry Divisions Regional Support Base.

As the Senior Enlisted Leader, Curtiss was responsible for training Iraqi Clinic staff in a myriad of topics, including Basic Medical Technician, Preventive Medicine inspections, and Combat Lifesaving.

According to Curtiss, language was not a barrier out on the battle field. "We had two Iraqi lieutenants who spoke excellent English. Plus, the clinics had interpreters to help with translating with patients," he said. "Sometimes it took a little time."

Curtiss said that after six months of working closely with the Iraqi military, he and his group were able to make a positive impact. "We trained over 700 people in the Combat Lifesaver Course in a two month period and also trained six of them to be Instructors," said Curtiss. He also stated that he could definitely see a change in the attitudes of the Iraqi people as they move towards embracing the democratic way of life.

Desert Dental continued...

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huge responsibility to ensure our forces are prepared dentally."

Most recently the detachment demonstrated their flexibility by doing dental work at Camp Habbinayah, a nearby Iraqi Army camp.

"We were getting a lot of emergency patients from Iraqi soldiers, so we decided to coordinate a dental mission to help them, and cared for multiple personnel that were in acute pain," said Peters. "It played a big part in improving relations with the Iraqis and providing a service that the Iraqis have never had."

For the more junior Sailors at the detachment, working in such a small shop means handling a multitude of responsibilities.

"In the rear we would have a very specific job," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Iris D. Mansel. "All day long you are doing chair-side assistance, working at the desk and everything else that needs to be done in the clinic."

In any clime or place, the warriors of desert dental will be here to provide support alongside service members to ensure their teeth are taken care of.

"In Iraq, we are truly defining the field of dentistry," Peters said.



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